16.

THE PRESENT STATE OF CHRISTENDOME AND The INTEREST of ENGLAND, With a Regard to FRANCE.

In a LETTER to a Friend.

LONDON,
Printed by *F. B.* for *H. Brome* at the Gun at the West End of S. *Pauls*, 1678.

[illegible]

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AND
The Interest of *England*, &c.

SIR,

YOu gave me a Brief, and a Pertinent Deduction the other day, of the *French Practices*, and *Designs*; the Progresse of their *Arms*, and the *Methods* of their *Proceedings*: Together with a Scheme of the Inevitable Ruine, and slavery, that threatens *Europe*, without a speedy, and a powerfull Conjunction, against them. After this General Contemplation of the present State of *Christendome*; you were pleased to take a particular Prospect of the Interest of *this Nation*: and how far we are to reckon our selves concerned in the Common Calamity: Coming at last, to this Conclusion; that *England cannot Reasonably expect to stand long, after the Losse of Holland, and Flanders.* For the support of this Opinion, (besides the Force of your own Reasoning) you referr'd me to several Historical, and Political Treatises upon the subject; which I have diligently examin'd, and made Use of, in this following Discourse: wherein I take the Freedom to give you my Thoughts upon the whole Matter.

Your

Your first Charge upon the *French*, was, *Breach of Faith* : and you pitch'd upon the Cases of *Spain*, and *Portugal* ; the barbarous usage of the Duke of *Lorain*; and the Nulling of the most *Christian Queens Renunciation* upon Marriage ; (which was the very foundation of the *Pyrenean Treaty*) by a *pretended Devolution of the Spanish Netherlands, in the Right of that Match* : Their underhand tampering of *Denmark*, and *Swede*, to draw the One *from* us, and hinder the Other from joyning *with* us ; the Influence they had upon our Disgrace at *Chatham* ; Their playing Booty on both sides, betwixt *England*, and *Holland*, in the *Dutch war* : And to these Instances, (which are all so notorious that they need no expounding) you might have added a thousand more of the like Quality. But these may suffice for a seasonable, and a Necessary Caution, and without the Helps of Aggravation, and Clamour ; Especially that Extraordinary Action of destroying the *Queens Renunciation*, and then invading the *Spanish Netherlands* upon it : An Action, hardly to be paralell'd in the Story of the whole World, for a Concurrence of so many Enormous Circumstances. There was in it, *the Publique Faith of the two Crowns* ; which is the only Security of Government, and the Bond of Humane Society : There was in it *the Solemnity of an Oath at the very Altar* ; which is the most Sacred Tye of a *Christian*: There was also *the highest Profession, and Assurance of Friendship imaginable* ; which is accompted one of the most Binding Obligations betwixt Man and Man : And then there was *a Brother, a Cousin, and an Infant*

sunt, in the Case; which makes it Matter of Humanity, and Honour. And yet all these Cords were as easily broken as Bulrushes. This single President may serve, however, for a warning to all Princes, and States, not to leave themselves at the mercy of men of such Principles. But *His most Christian Majesty is not the only Prince that has been abused by Corrupt, and Ambitious Ministers.*

Your next Observation was, that they are *the greatest Intermeddlers in the World, in other peoples Affairs*; that *they embroyl all where ever they come*; and that *there's hardly any Rebellion, but they are in the Bottom of it.* For their Mony walks in all the Courts, and Councils of Christendomes; nay, and beyond it too; For 'tis said, that the last *Grand Visir* was their Pentioner. Was it not *France*, that debauch'd *Scotland* first; and afterwards, *England*, into the Late Rebellion? Nay, did they not stand still, and look on, to see the Crowning of the work which they themselves began, in the Execrable Murther of the Late King? And did they not refuse to our Gracious and persecuted Sovereign that now is, even a Retreat in their Dominions? How did they prolong the War in *Portugal*? What Havock have they made in *Poland*, and what work in *Hungary*? And are they not at this day, in Counsel with the *Turk* against the *Empire*; and Undermining the *Bulwark* of *Christendome*? How have they dash'd *England* against *Holland*; blinded the Eyes of several Princes of the *Empire*; and baffled all Mediations toward a General Peace? Did they not formerly, under the Colour of Protecting *Germany*,

ny, cut off *Alsatia* from the *Empire*? And in a word; this has been their Practice wheresoever they have come: *They Covet Harbours in Spain* (says the Admirable *Baron del Isola*) *Leagues in the Empire*; *Factions in* Poland; *Warr in* England *and* Holland; *Passes into* Italy; *and the Sovereign Arbitrage every where. Their Quiet consists in the Trouble of all others, and their Advantage is in the Publique Calamities.* Nor have they any other way, then by dividing, and weakening of the Parts, to master the whole, which is the Capital designe. And if so, *There's no Fence against a Common Enemy, but a Common Union.*

It is already made appear, by what is above said, how dangerous they are to *Mankinde*. The next hint you gave me, was to consider on't, *whether the* English *may reasonably expect any better Quarter from them, then* other People: in which point, I shall only lay the Matter before you, and leave you the judge on't.

The *Four main Interests* of a Nation, are, *Religion*, *Reputation*, *Peace*, and *Trade*. For the first of these; we shall neither fare the better, nor the worse; but lose just as much for being of *Another Communion*, as his *Catholique Majesty* gets by being of the *same*. The Question now on Foot is a Communion of *State*, not of *Faith*. The *Alcoran*, and the *Gospel* go hand in hand; and at the same time, the *Protestants* are *protected* in *Hungary* and *persecuted* in *France*. To say nothing of the Encouragements they give there to the *Fansenists*; which

may, for ought we know, prove the greateſt Blow to the Church of *Rome* that ever it received ſince the Reformation. But what do I talk of *Religion*, in a Cauſe that is dipp'd in *Chriſtian Blood*, and in the *Tears of Widows, and Orphans?* A *Cauſe that is* propagated by *Sacrilege, Rapes, Depopulation, Slavery, Oppreſſion; and at leaſt a Million of Lives ſacrificed to it already?* The very thought of it is enough to ſtrike the Soul of any man with horrour and Indignation.

If you would ſee now how tenderly they have handled us in the Buſineſs of *Reputation*: Pray do but caſt an Eye upon the Character of an *Engliſh man* in their *Politique de France.*

Quant à ce qui eſt des Anglois, ils n'ont aucuns amis, ce ſont des gens ſans Foy, ſans Religion, ſans Probité, ſans Juſtice aucune, defians, legers au dernier point, Cruels, Impatiens, gourmands, ſuperbes, audacieux, avares, propres pour les coups de main, et pour une prompte execution, mais incapables de conduire une Guerre avec jugement. Leur Pais eſt aſſez bon pour vivre, mais iln'eſt pas aſſez riche pour leur fournir les moyens de ſortir, et de faire aucune conqueſte: auſſi n'ont ils jamais rien conquis, excepte L'Irlande, dont les habitans ſont foibles, et mauvais Soldats, &c. i.e. *As for the Engliſh, they are a People without Friends, without Faith, Religion, Honeſty, or Juſtice; Diſtruſtful, and fickle to the higheſt degree imaginable: Cruel, Impatient, Gluttonous, Proud, Audacious; they will do well enough for a Rubber at Cuffs, or a ſudden Exploit, but they underſtand nothing at all of the Government of a War. The Country is paſſable enough for them to live in; but not*

Rich enough to offer at any Conqueſt abroad; nor did they ever make any, but upon the Iriſh, *which are a weakly people, and Ill Souldiers.*

I think it were not amiſs in this Place, to deſire our Impertinent Undertaker to turn back to the Hiſtory of *Philip de Valois*, and he ſhall there finde that our *Edward the third* made a ſhift with one Army to beat 60000 *French*, and leave betwixt thirty, and forty thouſand of them upon the Place; and with another Army in the Biſhoprick of *Durham* to defeat as many *Scots*, and cut off fifteen thouſand of them too. And it muſt not here be omitted, that this *Scotch* Army was alſo animated by *French Counſels*. I would not willingly run out a Letter into a Volume, ſo that all other Reflections apart, I ſhall only add, that if the *Engliſh* had not once *recovered* the Field, and another time made it *good* in two or the greateſt Actions of late that have yet paſſed betwixt the *Imperialiſts*, and the *French*, 'tis the Opinion of wiſe men, that the latter would not have had much to brag of upon the ſucceſs of this War. And this in ſome degree is acknowledg'd by the Authour of a *French Relation of the Actions betwixt the two Armies* in 1675, 1676, and 1677, (How Romantical ſoever in other Caſes). Speaking of the Battle under the command of the *Count de Lorge*, after the Death of the *Vicount Turenne*, theſe are his words. *Et à rendre juſtice aux* Anglois, *et aux* Irlandois, *on peut dire, qu'on leur doit une bonne partie de cette victoire*; That is to ſay, *And to give the Engliſh, and Iriſh their due,* France *is indebted to them in a large meaſure for this Victory.* But now to our Polititian again.

again. *Ils se haissent les uns, les autres, et sont en division continuelle, soit pour la Religion, soit pour le Gouvernement.* The English, says he, *hate one another, and are still quarrelling, either about Religion, or Government.*

These Indecencies would almost make a man call them Names; but let us passe without one Angry word, from the Interest of our *Reputation*, to that of our *Peace*. And enquire how they stand affected to us upon that point. To say, that *England* has not for a long time had any troubles either at home, or abroad, which the *French* have not either promoted, or improv'd to their own Advantage; is to say no more then that they deal with *Us*, as they do with *all the World beside*; So that we must e'en have Recourse again to their *Politiques* for some particular Mark of their Favour, where you shall finde that our State-Mountebank has not yet shown all his Tricks, but puts himself with a very grave and fore-casting Countenance upon the very Project of our Ruine. *Une Guerre de France de trois, ou quatre ans contre eux les ruinera entierement, ainsi il semble qu' il ne faut point faire de paix avec eux qu' à des Conditions qui nous soient tres avantageuses.* A War (says he) *of three or four years with* France, *would absolutely destroy the* English; *so that methinks we should not entertain any Peace with them, but upon very profitable Terms.* And then a little after. *In fine,* says he, *the way to undo the* English, *is to make them keep an Army on foot; and there's no fear of their Landing in* France, *but to their Certain destruction, unless they should be invited by a Re-*

bellion ; without which, their Troops will in a short time most undoubtedly fall foul one upon another. To keep them upon Continual Expence, 'tis but giving them the Alarm upon the Isles of Jersey, *and* Gernsey, Wight, *and* Man, Ireland, *and the* Cinque-Ports ; *by which means, they will be put upon the Charge of Fortifications and Garrisons, which will perswade the People that the King intends to set up a standing Army, and an Arbitrary Government. So long as this holds, the Nation will never be at quiet, but torment themselves with fears, and Fealousyes, which may be easily fomented by letters in Cipher, to such or such particular Persons ; and in such sort to be intercepted as shall be found Convenient. These Letters may give a Hint of a Descent in* Ireland, *and elsewhere, which would dispose the Irish, who mortally hate the English, to a Revolt ; and among the suspicious Multitude they would* passe *for Gospell. This Contrivance would make the Scots also to bethink themselves of recovering their Liberty ; where there must be Partyes made, and the Sects encourag'd one against another ; especially the Roman Catholiques, must be fairly handl'd, and private Assurance given (in the Name of the King of* England) *to the* Benedictins, *(who are easy enough, to be impos'd upon) that they shall be restor'd to all their former Benefits, according to the Printed Monasticon ; which will presently make the Roman Catholiques declare themselves ; and the Monks will move Heaven, and Earth for the bringing of Matters about : But then Care must be taken to carry on the Report that the King is of the Romish Religion ; which will distract the Government, and throw all into an absolute Confusion.*

From

From hence we may gather; first, what Opinion the French have of us: Secondly, that it is not only their desire, and study, but a formed design to embroyl us. Thirdly, that they will stick at Nothing neither, to compasse that end; be it never so foul: Fourthly, this Libeller has trac'd us out the very Methods of their working: As by amusing the People with forged Letters of Intelligence, where the first Authour of the Plot must miraculously discover it: By filling the Peoples heads with fears and Jealousyes, and leaving no stone unturn'd in *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, to stir up a Rebellion: by making use of the Kings Name in pretended Commissions to *Papists*, in favour of their Religion, and artificially insinuating that his Majesty is of that Perswasion; to make him odious to his Subjects; by first puting the King upon the Necessity of an Army, for the securing of his Dominions; and then interpreting the Effect of that Necessity, for an attempt upon the Liberty of his People. Why has he not advis'd the Poisoning of all our Fountains too? which would have been a Course of as much Christianity, and Honour. But that this Trifle may not glorify himself too much in his wondrous Speculations, take Notice, that he is only the Transcriber, not the Authour of this goodly Piece, for the Original was betwixt *Richelieu*, and *Mazarine*; and it amounts to no more in effect, then an imperfect History of the *French* Dealings with us for a long time, and particularly in our Late Troubles.

To

To come now from his most Unmannerly Malice, to his Reason of State, If I am not mistaken, England *might longer subsist in a War with* France, *then* France *could in a Peace within it self* (the heavyest of all Judgments, when a Nation must be wicked upon Necessity;) And again; when he says that England *cannot hurt* France *by a Descent, unless call'd in by a Rebellion*; he never considers that if England *had an Army a foot, and stood inclin'd to make use of it that way, we should not be long without an Invitation.* For we see What the *Bourdelois*, &c. did upon their own Bottome, and without any forreign Encouragement; and the whole Busyness miscarry'd only for want of a vigorous Second. Lastly; give me leave to say that he has extremely overshot himself in one thing more; for though this has been really the Practice of the *French*, and is at this day the very Modell and Rule by which their Emissaryes govern themselves; it should yet have been kept as the greatest secret in the World: for the owning of these Inglorious Artifices in Publique, makes it one of the Grossest Libells that ever was written, against the *French Government*: to say nothing of his oversight in disobliging the *Roman Catholiques*, and laying snares to Trepan them.

A word now from their *Counsels*, and *Instructions* to their *Instruments*, which will be best known by the Conformity of their Behaviour to the mode of their French Masters; and it is no matter to us, in what shape they appear, nor is it much to themselves; who are any thing for Profit, and the very

Materia

Materia Prima, is not susceptible of more Forms. *Do the* French *put Tricks upon us with forged Letters*? So do they. *Do the* French *labour to poyson the People with Apprehensions that their Liberties are in danger, and their Religion; and that the King himself is Popishly affected*? So do they. *Do the* French *endeavour to create misunderstandings betwixt the King, and his People*? So do they. *Do the* French *Blow the Coal in* England, Scotland, *and* Ireland; *and when they have set all in a flame, roste their own Eggs at the fire*? So do they. *Do the* French *change their Party with their Interests*? So do they. What can be plainer now then that the French Interest beats in the Pulse of these Incendiaries. And what can be more ridiculous then to be foold over and over by the same hand? But this is enough to lay open the source of our miseries.

The question of *Trade* has been so beaten already, that there remains Little to be added to it. Nor in truth needs it, since it is agreed at all hands, that the *French* set up for an *Universal Commerce* as well as for an *Universal Monarchy*. And in effect, the One is but a necessary consequent upon the other. Nor is it enough, it seems, for us to be design'd upon by them, without lending them our own hands towards the Cutting of our own Throats: *For upon a sober and judicious Estimate, we are Losers by our Trade with* France, *at least a Million, and a half per Annum*. I shall conclude this Head with one Passage more out of our *Politiques of France*, (and you'l say 'tis a pleasant one too, but it must be under the Rose) Upon a Presupposal of mischief that's

a

a Brewing in *England*, *Now* says he, *it will be our Business to renew an Allyance with* Holland; *we can wheedle them into an Opinion, that they are the only men that understand the knack of Trade, so that they shall have that to themselves, the Talent of the* French, *alas! lies another way, and there's no forcing of any thing against Nature: and that now's their nick of time, to crush their Competitours for the Northern Seas.* So that we are all of us to be served with the same sauce; but 'tis some degree of Honesty yet, when they tell the world what they are to trust to.

Now to summe up all that's said. If the *French* can dispence with *Oaths*, and *Solemn Contracts*; If it be their *Custome*, and a branch of their *Policy*, *to fish in troubl'd waters*; If they *hate* us, as *English men*, and are not *for* us, as *Reformed Catholiques*; If they do all they can to wound us, in our *Reputation*, our *Peace*, and our *Trade*, we may take for granted that they will destroy us to all purposes if they can, which Naturally leads me to an Enquiry how far we are in their Power; or likely so to be; that we may take our measures accordingly.

It will not stand with the Brevity I propose in this Paper to give you a *Geographical*, or an *Historical* Accompt of *Places*, or *Actions*, But in as few words as I can, I am to present you with a general view of the present State of *Christendome*, with a Regard to the Power of *France*; and then to consider how far *England* may come to be concern'd in the *Common Fate*. Here it was that you and I brake off in our last Discourse; So that in the Prosecution of it, I must try to walk without Leading,

Leading, (Saving only the helps that I have gather'd from certain Tracts, which I have read upon his Recommendation) wherein I shall steer a middle Course, betwixt some that *overvalue* the strength of *France*, and others that will have it to be *lesse* then indeed it is.

That the Armes of *France* are at this day formidable to all *Christendome*, is not to be deny'd, and *Tacitus* gives you the Reason of it, in the Case of the *Romans*, and the *Brittains*. *Rarus* (says he) *ad propulsandum Commune Periculum conventus: ita, dum singuli pugnant, Universi vincuntur. There must be a Common Force to oppose a Common danger; they struggl'd one by one, till they were all destroy'd.* The *French* (no doubt of it,) are a *wealthy*, a *Populous* and *a Military Nation*. But it must yet be allow'd that they are more indebted for their Greatnesse, to the *slips* and *oversights* of *others*, (And this without disparagement too) then they are to *their proper Conduct*, and *Valour*. The Advance they made into *Flanders* in 1667. was introduced by the *Spaniards* trusting to their Assurances of Friendship, and rather imputable to an Excesse of Charity then any want of Precaution; though it seem'd not very likely that they should march with horse, Foot, and Cannon, only to go a Birding. Through these and the like Arts they have rais'd themselves to that dangerous height where now we behold them; taking all Advantages of the unsettled Condition of *Spain*; the divisions of the *Empire*, the Factions in *Holland*, and of all other mistakes in point of fore-sight, and

Resolution elsewhere. You know very well, the Conquests they have made upon the *United Provinces*, the *Spanish Netherlands*; a Considerable part of *Germany*, with the *Terrour*, and *devastation* that accompanies them every where: The Progresse of their Armes in *Catalonia*, *Sicily*, *the West Indies*, &c. Now what may be the Consequences of this over-growing Power, and how to prevent them, is the matter in Question.

A Short View of the Present State of Christendom.

AS it is without dispute, that the *French* Aim at *Universal Dominion*, (which is only a more plausible Cover for that *Universal Slavery* which must create it) so is it accompted as indubitable a Principle, that the Conquest of *Flanders* must be the *Foundation* of it. And according to this Maxim it is, that they take their Measures; for they have made themselves Masters of the Outworks already, in *Valenciennes*, *Cambray*, and *St. Omer*; three places of very great strength, and importance: And it is generally believ'd by the recalling of their Troops from the *Rhine*, and bending the flower of their Force that way, that they will push for the rest this Campania. If they carry it, (as probably they will, without the speedy addition of some Powerfull Alliance) take Notice I beseech you of that which Naturally follows. In the *first* place, the Charge and the Hazard of that War is over, which in Garrisons, and in the Field, has put his *most Christian Majesty* to the Expence of keeping near 100 000 Men in Pay: (which will then be at liberty to fall in upon the Empire.) Beside, what has been expended in *Management*, as the *French* call it, which in *honest English* is *down-right Corruption*. Secondly, This Acquisition

will furnish the *French* King with men, and moneys, for an Army of *fifty thousand men*, (and no better Souldiers in *Europe*). *Thirdly*, what will become of the Duke of *Brandenburg*, if the *French* shall fall into *Cleves*, and *Mark*, with a matter of *forty*, or *fifty thousand men* more; and from thence into *Pomeren*, and *Prussia*? *Fourthly*, the whole Patrimony of the *Empire*, from the *Rhine* to the Frontiers of *France*, fall by an inevitable Consequence into the hands of the *French*; as they have already swallow'd the three Bishopricks of *Metz*, *Toul*, and *Verdun*. So that the *Imperial Army* will be forc'd over the *Rhine*, and there probably kept in Play, and upon the bare *defensive*, by the Troops of *Bavaria*, and other Princes of the *French Interest*; while in the mean time, the Princes of *Westphalia* will be reduc'd to an absolute necessity of ranging themselves under the *French* Protection, and Changing their party. And what can be then expected from *Holland*, after what they have suffer'd already, and under their present despairs, but to content themselves with such Conditions as *France* will give them. For after the Losse of *Cleves*, and *Flanders*, their Case is wholly desperate, unless *England* should vigorously interpose to their Relief. And the State of the *Empire* is neither better nor worse then that of their Neighbours; for they must all submit their Necks to the same Yoak. When Matters are brought to this Passe, they have before them, *England*, *Spain*, and *Italy*; the Cloud is gather'd already, and it is wholly at their Choyce where it shall break.

There

There are a great many people, I know, that promise themselves mighty things from the Event of another *Campania*, for want I fear of Consulting the Chart; and the almost Insuperable difficultyes that lye in the way; The means they propose, are either by carrying the War into *France*, by way of *Revulsion*, or by forcing the French upon a *Capitall Battel*; The former Proposition seems *first* very impracticable; and *Secondly*, of little or no advantage, if it could be effected. It must be consider'd that beyond *Mentz*, *Coblentz*, and *Treves*, the *Imperialists* have no Magazine at all beside that betwixt *Treves* and *France* (a part of *Luxemburg* excepted) is absolutely in the Enemies Power. Now how should an Army subsist there, that must over and above, passe through a Country of about twenty Leagues, that is wholly layd waste, and in Ashes, and without any Cattle in it, or any other sort of Necessary provision?

Put the Case now that the *Imperialists* should break through all these difficulties, and carry an Army even into *Lorain* itself, The Country of *Meitzin*, or *Burgundy*, (which would take them up the best part of a Summer too,) all the strongholds are in the hands of the *French*, and the Country laid so desolate, that there's no living for an Army there. When it is come to this, they must resolve either upon a *Battle*, or a *Siege*. If the former; The *French* are at liberty whether they will fight, or no, and there's no compelling them, for they are among their strongholds and all their

their own both behinde them, and on Each Side, and the Country either burnt, or deserted. But carry it farther yet, and suppose the *French* forc'd upon the Risque of a *Battle*. *First*, The *Imperialists* are not sure to get the better of it. And *Secondly*, What if they should? Nay to the degree of an Entire Victory? All that would be expected more for that year, would be only to take in some Considerable Post, and make good the ground they had gotten, for the next Campaign: For it would be a madness to pursue their Victory into the heart of an Enemies Countrey, and leave so many strong Garrisons upon their Backs, which would undoubtedly cut off all their Convoys, and Starve them.

But this is still the supposing of a Thing not to be supposed; for the *French* in this Case, would stand upon the Defensive, and not to come to a *Battle*. Or in Case they should; and be worsted; they have men enough in Garrison for Recruits, that would immediately reinforce them.

Now on the other side, what if the *Imperialists* should chance to be routed? The Garrisons which the *French* hold in *Lorain*, *Burgundy*, and *Alsatia*, would, in such a Case, totally destroy that broken Army, and cut out such work in *Germany*, as has not been known in the *Empire* for many Ages.

In this Extremity, let us suppose that the *Empire* should yet bring another Army into the Field; and try the Issue of a Second *Battle*, and miscarry: And that the Duke of *Bavaria*, with other disaffected Princes of the *Empire*, should declare themselves for the Enemy; all that part of *Germany* that

that lyes within two, or three days journey of the *Rhine*, would be irrecoverably lost; a great part of it being so harrased already, that 'tis not able so much as to furnish an Army upon a March, much lesse for a Winter quarter.

Now to the Business of a *Seige*, the *French* have taught us, by *Philipsburg*, and *Maestricht*, that they want neither Skill to Fortify a Place, nor Courage to defend it. So that without a great losse of Time, and Men, it cannot be expected that the *Imperialists* should make themselves Masters of any considerable place, And when they shall have carry'd it; what will a Town in *Lorrain*, or *Burgundy*, signify to the saving of the *Spanish Netherlands*, which, if once lost, are hardly ever to be retriv'd?

Now taking this for granted; if *England* does not step in with all the speed and vigour imaginable, see what will be the end on't, *First*; That the *French*, being Masters of all the Posts Passes and strong-holds in *Lorain*, and *Burgundy*, may dodg, and trifle the *Imperialists* at pleasure, and make them spend out the Year without any Advantage to the *Netherlands*. The way would have been for the *Imperialists* to have prest with an Army of 50000 men directly into the body of *France*, and the *Confederate* Troops in the *Low Countryes*, to have made another Inrode by the way of *Picardy*, or *Bologne*; but since the taking of *Valenciennes*, *Cambray*, and St. *Omer*, there's no possibility of piercing *France* that way. So that a very small Army now upon the *Spanish Netherlands*, with the help of the *French* Garrisons, is sufficient to amuse, and tire

tire out the whole force of *Spain*, and *Holland*, upon that Quarter.

Secondly, *France* being thus secur'd on that side will unquestionably fall in with all their Power upon the *Empire*; unless diverted by the Alarm they have now receiv'd from *England*. Now admitting this to be the Condition of *France*, let any man of sense judge, what good the *Imperial* Army can do to the *Netherlands* (upon which single point depends the Fortune of *Christendom.*) What if they should march up to the Borders of *France* with 50000 men? Will not the *French* encounter them there with as many, or more? And with this odds too, that the *Imperialists* suffer a thousand Incommodities in their March, through a ruin'd Country: whereas the *French* have good Quarters, and plenty of all things at hand, watching the Others motions, and improving all Advantages against them.

Thirdly, In this posture of Affairs, the Confederates must never expect to do any great Matter upon the *French*, in these Provinces, unless they do very much out-Number them.

And it is likewise to be considered, that these troubles falling out in the Minority of *his Catholique Majesty*, the distractions of that Government, the Revolt of *Sicily*, and great disorders upon the Frontiers of *Spain*; the *Netherlands* have been much neglected, till the Elevation of his Highness *Don Juan of Austria* to the dignity of *Prime Minister*. And that it is not possible for him, by reason of the many Exigences of that Crown nearer home,

to

to send any Considerable succour to the *Low Countrys*, otherwise then by supplies of Money: So that by that time the *Imperialists*, and the *Hollanders* are got into their Winter-Quarters, or at least, before they take the Field again, the *French* from time to time will be ready with Fresh Troops out of their Garrisons to prosecute their Conquests; which by degrees must needs break the hearts of the Poor Inhabitants, when they finde that neither their Faith, nor their Courage, is able any longer to protect them. And when that day comes; what by their Armies, and what by other Influences, the *French* will have as good as Subjected *two thirds of Europe*. And there will also occur these farther difficulties. *First*, no body knows where the *French* will begin their Attaque; which will oblige the *Spanyard*, and *Hollander*, to strengthen all their Garrisons as far as their men will reach. *Secondly*, when the *Spanish*, and *Holland* Troops shall be so dispersed, wheresoever the *French* sit down, they must give themselves for lost, for want of an Army to relieve them; beside their furious, and Obstinate manner of Assault, for they care not how many men they lose, so they carry the place. (And then most of the men too are made prisoners of War.) Nor is the season of the year any discouragement to them neither; witnesse their first Irruption into *Burgundy*, and the restlesse Activity of their Troops even at this Instant.

So soon as their Work in *Flanders* is over, (which only *England*, under Heaven, is able to

Prevent a Check) the *French* will have an Army of at least 50000 men about *Lorain*, *Luxembourg*, and *Burgundy* to face the *Imperialists*, and at the same time with as many more perhaps they will seize upon the Dutchy of *Juliers*, and of *Cleves*, and from thence passe the *Rhine*, to countenance those that are of the *French Caball*, on the side of *Westphalia*, and so in due time, several other Princes of the *Empire*. It is remarkable that in a three years war against the *Confederates*, his most *Christian Majesty* has not only stood his ground, without losing so much as one Inch of his Ancient Patrimony, but actually, and almost without opposition, taken several Towns, and some entire Provinces, from the Principalls of the *Confederacy*; And made himself almost as Considerable at *Sea*, as he is at *Land*; Not only in the *Mediterranean*, and upon the Coasts of *Spain*, and *Italy*, but in *America* too: where he has laid a Foundation of great mischief both to *England*, and *Holland*, in the point of *Commerce*; if not timely prevented. And he does little lesse by his *money* than by his *Armes*; for he pays all; supports the *Swede*, and with *French money*, under pretext of *Neutrality*, maintains considerable Armies in the very heart of the *Empire*; which 'tis feared, will be ready enough upon any disaster, to joyn with the *Common Enemy*. It is the *French* Court that manages the Councells of *Poland*, and they govern the *Swisse* no lesse; who, by the Conquest of the *Franche County* are made little better then slaves. And yet by a fatall, and Besotted blindnesse *that Republique* still furnishes the *French* with the best of

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their Soldiers, and helps forward the destruction of *Europe*, never dreaming that they themselves are to be undone too at last.

But it is no great matter, you'l say, to impose upon the *Swisse* (which are a heavy, and a Phlegmatique people) but the *French* charms have bewitcht even *Italy* it self; though a Nation the most Clear-sighted, and suspicious of all others. For their *Republiques* lye as quiet, as if they were asleep; though the Fire is already kindled in *Sicily*, and the danger brought home to their own doors. It is a wonder, that they lay things no more to heart, considering, *first*, the Passages that the *French* have to favour their Entry. *Secondly*, that they are many, and small States; weak, and easily to be corrupted, if not so already. *Thirdly*, That though they have been formerly very brave, and many Particulars remain so still, yet in the generality, they are soft, and Effeminate. And *Fourthly*, That the *French* is there the Master of the Seas. These Reflections methinks might convince any man of the Condition they are in. And certainly they that were not able to defend themselves against *Charles the Eight*, will be much lesse able to encounter *Lewis the 14th*: Or if he gets in, to drive him out again, as they did the Other. For they must do it wholly upon their own Strength, having only the *Turk* in Condition to help them. For *Germany*, and *Spain*, are sunk already; And the *Swisse* will neither dare to venture upon't, nor are they able to do it if they had a minde to't.

As for *Spain*, it is neither Populous, nor for-

tify'd, and perhaps want of Provisions may keep it from an Invasion. And yet for all that, with a Body of Thirty, or forty thousand Men by the way of *Fontaraby*, and as many by *Catalonia*, the *French* may (if they please) in two *Campaigns* make themselves Masters of *Navarre*; *Arragon*, *Catalonia*, and *Valentia*: and then it is but fortifying the Frontiers, and making *his Catholique Majesty* a Tributary in *Castile*; Who must content himself to take what they please to give him, over and above, in Consideration of his Dominions in *Italy*, and the *Spanish Indyes*: *A Possibility, that* England, *and* Holland *shall do well to think of: For when he has the* Mines *in his Power, and* Europe *under his Feet, there will be no contending.*

After this, they have only the *Swisse*, or the *English*, to fall upon next: For the *former*, they are neither fortify'd, nor United, in Affections, or Religion.

As for *England*; They are a People not naturally addicted to the *French*; Sensible of their honour, and of their Interest; and the whole world is convinced of their Courage. They are United under the Government of a Gracious Prince; and their Concerns are at this Instant lodged in the hands of the Most Loyall, and Publique-spirited Representatives that ever acted in that Station; beside the strength of the Island by Situation: So that the *French* would finde it a hard matter, either to make a Conquest here, or, if they should surprize it, to keep it. But yet they have finer ways to victory then by

by force of Arms; and their *Gold* has done them better service then their *Iron*.

What have we now to do then, but in a Common Cause, to arm against a Common Oppression. This is the Time, or never, for *Italy* to enter into a League for their Common safety, and not only to keep, but, if possible, to force the *French* from their Borders; while the *Imperial* Army holds the Capital Power of *France* in Play?

And this is the time too, for the *Swiss* to recall all their Troops out of the *French* service, and to Strike a general League also for the Recovery of *Burgundy*, the only Outwork of their Libertyes, and to expell the *French* Garrisons, and deliver the places into the hands of the Right Owners.

And will it not concern *Poland*, as much as any of the rest; that stands, or falls with the *Empire*, as the Defence of *Christendome* against the *Turks*, and whose own Turn is next?

This Alarm methinks should call off the Princes from the Acquisitions they have made upon part of the *Swedes* Possessions in the *Empire*, to the Assistance of the *Spanish Netherlands*; and make all the *French Mercenaries* in the *Empire* to bethink themselves of returning from the delusions which either the *French Artifice* or *Money* has imposed upon them. He that has no regard for the *Head*, will have lesse for the *Dependences*, when he has them at his Mercy.

May the very *French* themselves should do well to contemplate the slavery that is now prepar'd for

them. Their Laws and Liberties are trampled upon; and *till the* French *Government be reduc'd to the Bounds of its Ancient Constitution, neither the People, nor their Neighbours, can ever be Secure.*

In this dangerous *Crisis* of Affairs, it has pleas'd Divine Providence to leave *England* the Arbitresse of the Fate of *Europe*; and to annex such advantages to the Office, that the *Honour*, the *Duty*, and the *Security* of this Nation seem to be wrapt up together. In the Point of *Honour*, what can be more Generous, then to succour the Miserable and the Oppress'd, and to put a stop to that Torrent that threatens *Christendome* with an Universall Deluge? Beside the Vindication of our selves for those Affronts, and Indignityes, both Publique, and private, that we have suffer'd upon our own Accompt. And then in matter of *Duty*; It is not only *Christendom*, but *Christianity* it self, that lyes at stake. For, in the Ruine of the *Empire*, the *Turks* work is done to his hand; by breaking down the only Fence that has preserv'd us all this while from the Incursions of the *Ottoman* Power. Now as nothing can be more Glorious, then at all hazzards, to hinder the Effusion of more *Christian blood*, and to save *Christendome* it self from Bondage; It is so much our *Interest* too, that we our selves are Lost without it. And as the Obligation is Reciprocal, so the Resolution is Necessary: The choyce we have before us being only This, *Either to Unite with our Neighbours, for a Common Safety; or to stand still, and look on, the mere Spectatours of their Ruine, till we fall alone.* This

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is so Demonstrative, that if we do not by a powerfull Allyance, and diversion, prevent the Conquest of *Flanders* (which lyes already a Gasping) we are cut off from all Communication with the Rest of *Europe*; and coop'd up *at home*, to the Irrecoverable Losse of our Reputation, and Commerce; for *Holland* must inevitably follow the Fate of *Flanders*, and then the *French* are Masters of the Sea; Ravage our Plantations; and infallibly possess themselves of the *Spanish Indyes*, and leave Us answerable for all those Calamityes that shall ensue upon it: which as yet, by God's providence, may be timely prevented. But *he that stills the Raging of the Sea will undoubtedly set Bounds to this Overflowing Greatnesse*; having now, (as an Earnest of that Mercy) put it into the hearts of our Superiours to provide seasonably for the Common safety, and in proportion also to the Existence of the Affayr; knowing very well, that things of this Nature are not be done by Halves.

We have to do with a Nation of a Large Territory; abounding in Men, and Mony, and their Dominion is grown so absolute, that though there can sell any thing his own, if the Court says Nay to't. So that the Sober, and Industrious Part are only Slaves to the Lusts, and Ambition of the Military. In this Condition of Servitude, they feel already what their Neighbours fear, and wish as well to any Opportunity, either of avoyding, or of Casting off the Yoak: which will easily be given by a Conjunction of *England*, and *Holland*, at Sea: and almost infallibly produce these Effects. *First*; It will draw off the Navall Force

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of *France* from *Sicily*, *America*, and elsewhere, to attend this Expedition. *Secondly*; The Diversion will be an Ease to the *Empire*, and the *Confederates*, from whence more Troops must be drawn to encounter this Difficulty, then the *French* can well spare. *Thirdly*; It will not only encourage those Princes, and States that are already engag'd, but likewise keep in Awe those that are disaffected, and Confirm those that waver.

'Tis true, this War must needs be *prodigiously expensive*; but then in Probability it will be *Short*; And in Cases of this Quality, people must do as in a Storm at Sea, rather throw part of the Lading over-board, then Founder the Vessel, I do not speak This, as supposing any Difficulty in the Case, for the very contemplation of it has put fire into the veins of every true *English-man*; and they are mov'd, as by a sacred Impulse, to the Necessary, and the only means of their Preservation. And that which Crowns our Hopes, is, that these Generous Inclinations are only ready to Execute what the wisdome of their Superiours shall finde Reasonable to Command. I need not tell you how *Jealous* the People of *England* are of their *Religion*, and *Liberyes*; to what degree they have contended, even for the shadow of these Interests, nor how much blood, and Treasure they have spent upon the Quarrel. Could an Imposture work so much; and can any man imagine that they will be now less sensible, when they see before their eyes a manifest Plot upon their Religion; their Liberties invaded; their Traffique interrupted; the *Honour*, and the very *Being* of their *Country* at stake; their Wives and Children expos'd to *Beggary* and *Scorn*; and in Conclusion, *The Priviledges of a Free-born Englishman Exchang'd for the Vassalage of France?*

FINIS.

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